A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBER

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES' REQUEST TO CONGRESS TO DEMONSTRATE GREATER SUPPORT FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AS THE FRONT LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM AND OTHER DISASTERS; PASS AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION TO GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST RESPONDER GRANTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, We need the federal government to partner with our nation's cities and towns to secure our homeland through continued strong support for all first responders including direct funding to cities and regions with populations greater than 100,000 and to high-threat communities; and

WHEREAS, As partners in fighting terrorism, the federal government must improve its direct delivery of first responder funding to cities; maintain funding for traditional pre- and post-disaster emergency management programs; and ensure the effectiveness of an integrated national emergency response system.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA supports the National League of Cities' request to congress to:

Section 1. Demonstrate greater support for our first responders as the front line of defense against terrorism and other disasters by:

- Increasing funding for Urban Area Security Grants to at least \$1.45 billion with additional provisions to ensure direct funding to large cities and high-threat regions;
- Maintaining \$1.7 billion in funding for the State Homeland Security Grant program with provisions to improve the delivery of funds to local governments, as well as coordination of resources and emergency planning efforts;
- Maintaining \$750 million in funding for the firefighter grant program with continued direct funding to local fire departments as well as \$60 million for the Urban Search and Rescue program;
- Maintaining \$500 million in funding for law enforcement terrorism prevention grants;
- Increasing funding for emergency communications interoperability to at least \$156 million;
- Restoring funding for traditional emergency response capacity building grants programs such as \$180 million in funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants; and
- Maintaining \$50 million in funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System program.

Section 2. Pass authorizing legislation to govern the administration of first responder grants to:

- Ensure direct funding to cities with populations of 100,000 or more through the Urban Area Security Initiative Grants;
- Require at least 80 percent of the State Homeland Security Grant funds to pass expeditiously through the states to local governments;
- Waive matching-funds requirements for grants during local and state fiscal distress; and
- Continue funding for traditional first responder and emergency management programs that existed prior to September 11, 2001.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is directed to transmit a true and correct copy to all members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation.

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